

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-9. Please amend the claims as follows.

1. - 9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

rotationally engaging a pin member and a box member, the pin member having an external thread increasing in width in one direction, the external thread comprising load and stab flanks, the box member having an internal thread increasing in width in the other direction, the internal thread comprising load and stab flanks, the pin member and box member defining a positive stop torque shoulder,

wherein ~~the widths of the external thread and the internal thread are a torque is~~ **applied** selected such that **irreversible plastic deformation of the positive stop torque shoulder does not occur** upon final makeup, **and such that** a selected clearance exists between the external **stab flank thread** and internal **stab flank thread**.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of a box face disposed on the box member and a pin outer diameter shoulder disposed on the pin member.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of a pin nose disposed on the pin member and a box inner diameter shoulder disposed on the box member.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the external thread of the pin member has a two-step configuration having an outer diameter shoulder, the internal thread of the box member has a two-step configuration having a face, and the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of the box face and the pin outer diameter shoulder.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the external thread of the pin member has a two-step configuration having a nose, the internal thread of the box member has a two-step configuration having an inner diameter shoulder, and the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface of the pin nose and the box inner diameter shoulder.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the internal thread of the pin member has a two-step configuration, the external thread of the box member has a two-step configuration, and the positive stop torque shoulder is disposed at an interface between the two steps of the pin and box members.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the internal and external threads are adapted to form a metal-to-metal seal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the internal thread of the box member comprises a tapered, internal, generally dovetail-shaped thread having stab flanks, load flanks, roots, and crests.

18. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the external thread of the pin member comprises a tapered, internal, generally dovetail-shaped thread having stab flanks, load flanks, roots, and crests.

19. (New) A connection designed to operate in accordance with the method of claim 10.